(ii) Participation in overseas Conferences/Seminars of Scientific/ technical/educational nature;

(iii) Specialised training/study tours/Apprenticeship training;

(iv) Medical treatment/check-up/ consultation abroad; and

(v) Studies abroad;

In excess of the prescribed scales and/or the duration of the visit abroad without prior approval of RBI provided they are satisfied about the bonafides of the application and need for release of exchange in excess of the prescribed scales.

(d) As already stated at (b) and (c) above, authorised dealers can release foreign exchange for various purposes without any ceiling. This has come into effect from 5th July, 1995.

Review of Policies on Power Sector

1045. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Working Group has urged the Central Government to review its policies concerning power sector;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether the role of private sector in power sector has been a controversial issue since the past few months; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) National Working Group on Power Sector in their letter submitted to Hon'ble Members of Parliament regarding the "New Power Policy of the Government of India" have raised certain issues on the private power policy. These have been clarified in a publication brought out by the Ministry of Power—"The Legal and Policy Framework of Pirvate Power Development—Facts and Clarifications", which was widely circulated including among the Hon'ble Members of Parliament.

(c) Even though the private power policy has been one of the much debated topics in the recent months, it has not been a controversial issue.

(d) Does not arise.

Loans Disbursed under IRDP and DRI scheme

1046. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons (families) granted loans under IRDP and DRI Scheme against target in 1993-94, 1994-95; and

(b) what is the amount disbursed under IRDP and DRI Scheme during 1993-94 and 1994-95?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) The number of families assisted and the amount disbursed under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) during the year 1993-94 and 1994-95 are furnished below:

Year	No of families assisted		
	Target	Achievement	Amount disbursed (including portion of subsidy) (Rs. in crores)
1993-94	2569942	2538320	2365.09
1994-95*	2115097	2182018	2419.92

*The data is provisional

As far as Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme is concerned, no target regarding number of persons to be assisted in a year has been prescribed. However, a target has been prescribed in relation to the lending to be made by the banks. Each bank is required to lend under DRI Scheme, at least 1% of their aggregate advances of the previous year. The amount disbursed under DRI Schme by public sector banks during the year ended March 1993 was Rs. 151.56 crores against 370103 accounts. Figures for the years ended March 1994 and March 1995 are not available.

ग्रामीण बैंकों का कार्यकरण

1047. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे:

(क) वर्तमान में देश में कुल कितने बैंक हैं और उनकी कितनी शाखाएं कार्यरत हैं;

(ख) क्या सरकार सभी ग्रामीण बैंकों और उनकी शाखाओं के कार्यनिष्पादन के बारे में सर्वेक्षण कराती है यदि हां, तो ग्रामीण बैंकों और उनकी शाखाओं के कार्यनिष्पादन में क्या प्रगति रही है;

(ग) क्या सरकार देश के सभी ग्रामीण बैंकों तथा उनकी सभी शाखाओं का उनके प्रवर्तक बैंकों में विलय करने पर गंभीरता पूर्वक विचार कर रही है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या क्या कारण है और इन बैंकों में कार्यरत सभी कर्मचारियों की सेवाओं के संबंध में सरकार ने क्या निर्णय लिया है?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री मनमोहन सिंह): (क) इस समय देश में 196 क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंक कार्य कर रहे हैं जिनकी शाखाओं का नेटवर्क है।

(ख) राष्ट्रीय कृषि और ग्रामीण विकास बैंक (नाबार्ड) दो वर्ष में एक बार सभी क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों का निरीक्षण करता है। 1990-91, 1991-92 और 1992-93 के वित्तीय वर्षों की समाप्ति पर खातों की संख्या और जमा राशि तथा इन तीन वर्षों में से प्रत्येक वर्ष के दौरान संवितरित ऋण नीचे दिए गए हैं:—

(लाख रुपए में)

जमा राशियां

	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
(i) खातों की संख्या	24150303	34526314	36161528
(ii) राशि	498923	586783	6934534
संवितरित ऋण	74749	110784	119790